



ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1861.

CONGRESS.—The Senate, yesterday, discussed the Tariff bill. In the House of Representatives, the bill authorizing the President to use volunteer forces occasioned an exciting debate. The House also considered other bills.

THE STATE CONVENTION.—The business of the Convention was suspended on Monday for the purpose of giving a formal reception to the Commissioners from Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina. Addresses were delivered by Hon. Fulton Anderson, of Mississippi, and Hon. Henry L. Benning, of Georgia. The Hon. John S. Preston, Commissioner from South Carolina addressed the Convention yesterday. A resolution that the Border States shall require additional guarantees was offered by Mr. Hall and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate on Monday, bills were reported for incorporating a number of railroad, oil, coal, and mining and manufacturing companies. A resolution was offered for prohibiting the sale of ardent spirits to free negroes. The House of Delegates was opened with prayer by a minister of the Hebrew persuasion. A bill was reported authorizing the Merchants' Bank to establish branches.

A friend has sent us a speech delivered in January last, at Little Rock, Arkansas, by the late Hon. J. M. S. Causin, formerly of Maryland, whose death it was our painful duty to record only a few days ago. It was a speech on the great questions of the day—and displayed all the zeal, and ardor, and patriotism of the lamented deceased. Its perusal brought back the "old days and old times," which we so fondly remember—when, united with him in political feeling and personal friendship, we hailed his rising fame, and wished him God speed, in his career! Had we room in our columns, we would publish this speech, in full. It shows his love for the Union, his patriotism, and his ardent desire to see his country once more restored to peace, and happiness, although we may not agree with all his views or positions. We hope to have an opportunity of, at least, making some extract from it, hereafter. Would that his eloquent voice could still be raised against the aggressions of fanatical pretenders at the North—their assaults upon equality and justice—and for the re-establishment of a Constitutional Union, and the guarantees of Constitutional Rights.

The New Orleans Picayune, we expect, takes the correct view of the case, when, in speaking of the foreign relations of the new Southern Confederacy, it says—that the South has but little to hope for or expect, in the way of sympathy or favor, from either Great Britain or France. Both of these nations are "anti-slavery." To use the technical phrase—although in both cases they have quite as much "slavery" at home, as we have in this country. But they boast of recognizing "negro equality"—and glory in opposing "negro slavery!" It is probable that Disunion in this country is regretted and deplored by the people and governments of both countries, and that they desire to see a restoration of things to their former status—that is now the "fashionable" word in "political circles." But, if two governments are kept up—the South need expect nothing beyond what interest will exert.

The Maryland Conference Convention assembled in Baltimore on Monday. It was very numerous and respectfully attended—most of the counties being represented.—The counties of Charles, Prince George's, Caroline, Dorchester, Harford, and Talbot, had no delegates present. Judge Chambers, of Kent, was elected President. He declared himself opposed to secession—and regarded "secession as the greatest curse that has ever fallen on the nation." He stated that the Governor of Maryland desires a State Convention, but holds that courtesy to Virginia requires no action shall be taken until the Peace Conference conclude their labors, and proposed that the action of the body over which he was called to preside should conform to this purpose.

Thousands of the Northern people have given Mr. Lincoln, so far, quite an ovation—shouting in his train—pulling his arms nearly off in their eagerness to salute him—hanging out, in some instances, before his eyes mottoes of "no compromise"—the women hugging him, the children kissing him—and "foolishness generally"—deceiving and deluding him thereby into the idea, that there is peace, when there is no peace—and that there is "nothing wrong," when everything is wrong, and the country falling to ruin around him! Such folly and infatuation may shipwreck all the hopes of "the friends of the Union as it was."

The friends of Mr. Lincoln say, that the comments made upon his speeches "are just what they expected"—and that nothing he could say, would be approved of by those opposed to his election. They are mistaken. Much as his election is deprecated—had he shown himself a true patriot, in this crisis, and recommended measures of justice to the South, even the Disunionists there would have done him justice. The South can afford to be magnanimous and generous.

Extensive preparations are making in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, and many other cities, for the celebration of the 22d of February. Let it be a general patriotic holiday.

The government of the "Confederated States of America"—or the "Southern Confederacy"—is now fully organized—a President and Vice President elected and sworn into office—the President's Inaugural Address, delivered—the Congress in session and acting—and all, so far, without civil war or bloodshed! In any event, in all events, may PEACE be preserved! That is now the first consideration. If the dissolution of our late Union is to be final—if the destruction of our late government is to be complete, may we not appal the land at home, and astonish the nations abroad, with a fratricidal war!

Congress is laboring and lumbering at a Tariff—with the Gulf States out of the Union—a Southern Confederacy formed—the Union broken up—and the future condition of the Border States altogether uncertain!—Its provisions, enactments, and regulations, are scarcely regarded or thought of, in the consideration of more important questions.—The Tariff had better be laid aside, for the present. Or if what is left of Congress, requires something to keep it employed until the 4th of March, let it confine itself exclusively to just such laws as will keep the machinery peacefully in motion.

Every "Republican" at the North who shouts "No Compromise," or opposes constitutional guarantees for constitutional rights, is a Disunionist, *per se*—without excuse. The Disunionists *per se*, at the South, have a record of wrong and injustice, on the part of the North, to appeal to, for a reason for their course—wrong as we think it is. But the Northern Disunionists stand condemned before the world by their own action.

When the present Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Dix, was Postmaster of New York, in a letter, he declared that "he knew nothing more degrading to our public office and those who fill them than the practice which has existed of sending political taggers to the doors of the pay-room to levy contributions on the clerks as they emerge with their hard-earned stipends."

Lord Brougham, in a recent letter, speaks of the "alarm felt by all the friends of human improvement at the risk of Disunion in the United States," and hopes that, both in Italy and America, the contending parties will be made to see the wisdom of compromise and mutual concession."

Hon. L. W. Spratt, of South Carolina, makes a vigorous "protest" against the action of the Southern Congress, in prohibiting the African Slave trade. He declares that "if this prohibition be carried into the permanent government, our (the Secession) whole movement is defeated."

Thos. Starr King, in a letter about the California gold region to the Boston Transcript, says: "It is an area equal to the whole of New England, and its riches are scarcely touched as yet. There is no more danger that the wheat produce will give out than that the gold harvest will."

The friends of the Chiqui contract foiled by the action of the Conference committee have backed their scheme as a rider to the civil appropriation bill, in the hope that they will thus force it through at the end of the session.

W. S. D. Urquhart, wealthy Jew, engaged in the commission business in New Orleans failed a few days ago for \$1,000,000. During the crisis of 1857, his firm was considered the most solid in this part of the Union.

The Letter of the Governor of Georgia to the Governor of New York, about the arms seized in New York, is sharp enough. The Governor of New York, resorts to technicalities, &c.

Reports from South Carolina are to the effect that Fort Sumter will certainly be attacked, in a very short time.

A member of the New York Legislature has been arrested on a charge of "bribery and corruption."

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Monday, Mr. Paxton, from Committee, reported House bill to incorporate the Elk River Railroad Company; also, a bill to incorporate the National Railroad Company.

Mr. Coghill reported a bill to amend the 9th section of an act passed March 24th, 1848, entitled an act to incorporate the Lynchburg and Tennessee Railroad Company.

On motion of Mr. Johnston, it was resolved to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law, the sale of ardent spirits to free negroes.

Senate bill to authorize Railroad Companies to appoint police agents, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Wickham, was amended by adding at the end of the first clause, the words "Provided that any county Court giving such consent, may, at any time, revoke it," and also by striking out the words "in this Commonwealth," and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "in the county or corporation in which such arrest is made."

In the House of Delegates, bills were favorably reported on by House committees: authorizing the Merchants' Bank of Virginia to establish branches at Rocky Mount, Liberty, Goodson, and Princeton; for the re-organization of James H. Courtney, of Westmoreland county; authorizing the amendment of the charter of the Holliday's Cove Railroad; and for the relief of Milton Fitch, last sheriff of Prince William county.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

FORT KEARNY, Feb. 18.—The Pony Express reached San Francisco on the 21st ult., with eastern news telegraphed to Fort Kearney of the 24th, containing a detailed account of affairs at Charleston, after the Star of the West was fired into, the debate there in the United States Senate, and the proceedings in the New York and other Legislatures.

The Legislature has spent most of the time since in debating the various series of Union resolutions formerly introduced.—Most of the Breckinridge members justify the secession movement.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

At the annual meeting of the Baltimore Conference at Staunton, Va., approaches, much interest is felt as to the action of that body, which will consist of about one hundred and ninety preachers. Seven districts, viz: Baltimore, Washington, Alexandria, Winchester, Rockingham, Roanoke, and Lewisburg. Membership 26,549; probations 3,550; local preachers 211—total 30,410. Colored 13,550. There are 414 churches, valued at \$773,950; 61 parsonages, \$120,350; Sunday schools 337; officers and teachers 4,470; scholars 23,292; volumes in libraries 64,623. The oldest member of this conference is the Rev. Joshua Wells, of Baltimore, who entered in 1789.

The steamer Charrmer, belonging to the line of steamers which ply between Vicksburg and New Orleans, was burnt to the water edge and sunk about midnight on Sunday of last week. So far as yet ascertained but five lives were lost. They are a Mr. Ambrose Davis, of Tennessee, and his young wife; a Mr. Green, thought to have been a merchant in New Orleans; and one of the cabin boys named Toby. One female is somewhat burnt. The wife of Mr. Green was taken off a bale of cotton some mile and a half below.

The steamers South Carolina and Massachusetts are to immediately resume their regular trips between Boston and Charleston. Advice from Charleston state that the obstructions placed in the ship channel of that port have been entirely removed by the action of the sea, and not a vestige of the sunken vessels remains. In consequence of the withdrawal of some of the steamers which formerly ran between Charleston and Northern ports, freights have advanced fifty per cent.

In the Louisiana House of Representatives, Mr. Lindsay, of New Orleans, introduced a joint resolution inviting the southern portion of Indiana and Illinois, which gave large majorities against Lincoln, to form a pro-slavery State and join the Southern confederacy.—Mr. Haynes, of East Feliciana, introduced a resolution returning thanks to Gen. Lane, of Oregon, for his assurance of aid to the Southern States and in defence of the honor and rights thereof contained in his speech rebuking Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee.

Gov. Moore, of La., has made the following appointments in the army of that State: Col. Braxton Bragg, Major General; Major George Deas, Adjutant General; Col. A. C. Myers, Quartermaster General; Major G. T. Beauregard, Colonel of Engineers. These gentlemen were all recently attached to the U. S. army.

The American Northwestern Boundary Commission, which was appointed to settle, in connexion with the English Boundary line, the dispute as to the northwestern boundary line, is progressing as speedily as possible, and on the 25th of October the first stone of the final monument of the Northwestern Boundary Commission had been laid.

A large amount of war material has been shipped from Pittsburg, destined for the celebrated Stevens' Floating Battery, New York, which has been in course of construction several years, and will be located at the "New York," near this city. The whole amount of shell furnished was one hundred and fifteen tons.

A New York mechanic who wants work, suggests that all the men out of employment in New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City, form in procession when Mr. Lincoln arrives in New York, and march past his hotel to convince him that there is such a thing as "New York," and that some people are injured by it.

A statement from Japan says that "Foumy" is dead. According to the report of the Japanese, the cause of the death was delirium tremens. The foreign residents, however, doubted this statement, and strongly suspected that the gay youth had been beheaded. It is hoped that the rumor may be unfounded.

The Baltimore corespondent of the New York Tribune states that Mr. Justice Wayne and Mr. Justice Campbell of the United States Supreme Court, the one from Georgia and the other from Alabama, have both determined not to resign their offices, notwithstanding the secession of their respective States.

Mr. Pryor, chairman of the select committee charged with investigating into the truth of a report that succeeding members of Congress had taken home with them valuable sets of books from the House Library, (which could not be replaced,) will soon report that the charge is entirely without foundation.

The New York Senate has confirmed by a handsome majority the nomination of Hon. Francis Granger as a Commissioner from that State to the Peace Congress. Mr. Granger is a conservative, old fashioned Whig.

The importers of foreign books are loud in their complaints against the new tariff proposed in Congress.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY TARIFF.—The discussions of the Montgomery Congress being all in secret but little information has yet transpired as to its purposes and intentions in relation to the tariff. The first allusion to any details of the proposed measure we find in the Charleston Courier, which briefly adverts to the subject as follows:

An informal conference of leading merchants was held on Friday in the Custom House, by invitation of Collector Calcock, to consider a draft of a tariff which is before the Southern Congress at Montgomery.

The rates proposed are 20 per cent. on spirits, 10 per cent. on tobacco, and similar articles; the free list to include all raw materials, and the free list of the Federal tariff of 1857.

The warehouse system will be retained, but goods now in bonds will be withdrawn at the new rates, which will take effect on the 1st of March.

The result of this meeting was transmitted to Montgomery by telegraph, to Hon. R. W. Barnwell, from whence came the dispatch which occasioned it.

The Peace Conference.

Monday was given to debate, and to-day there will be an effort to bring the Conference to a vote, which, from the demonstration on Saturday, will probably stand thus:

For the report—Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri—11.

Against the report—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin—10.

This vote would carry the report of the Committee by one majority, but there will be only four out of the fourteen free States voting for it.

The vote of Ohio would have been for the report had Judge Wright lived. He held the casting vote of his State, and advocated Mr. Guthrie's proposition. His place had been filled by the appointment of Mr. Walcott, a notorious Abolitionist, who moved the adjournment of his court in honor of John Brown, on the occasion of his being hung.

The Virginia Commissioners desire to leave nothing to construction, and in this they are sustained by the Maryland and the other States. Hence efforts will be made to clear up all ambiguities by amendments before a direct vote be taken on the report.

Mr. Tyler has also proposed amendments to the effect that the President shall appoint all Territorial officers for Southern Territories upon the recommendation of two-thirds of the Southern Senators, and those for the Northern Territories upon a similar recommendation from two-thirds of the Northern Senators. This is designed to guard the Southern territory from anti-slavery propagandists in the way of Federal officers.

The States of Rhode Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are anxious to determine to have a satisfactory settlement, and express a perfect willingness to support any and every proposition looking to that end, and their Commissioners threaten the Republican party, if they do not come forward and prevent a dissolution of the Union, that their States will go with the South.

The extremists of the Republican members of Congress express a determination to do all they can to defeat any movements for a settlement which the Conference may make, alleging as a reason therefor that as the next administration is to be responsible for the settlement or non-settlement of the difficulty, the matter should be left to the management of Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet.

The debate in the Conference to-day has been quite spirited, and as the Hon. Francis Granger arrived here this evening to take his seat to-morrow as a Commissioner from New York, hopes are entertained that the vote of that State will be cast for the report. There are also some hopes entertained this evening that Ohio will vote in the affirmative.

The Report of the Committee, although acceptable to the Southern States, has some features that are objected to. The first article promises as follows:

"Article 1. In all the territory of the United States not embraced within the limits of the Cherokee grant, north of a line from east to west, on the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, is prohibited whilst it shall be under a Territorial Government; and in all the territory south of said line the status of persons owning service or labor as it now exists shall not be changed by law whilst such Territory shall be under a Territorial Government; and neither Congress nor the Territorial Government shall have power to hinder or prevent the labor or involuntary servitude within the United States, according to the laws or usages of any State from which such persons may be taken, nor to impair the rights arising out of said relations, which shall be subject to judicial cognizance in the Federal courts according to the common law; and when any territory north or south of said line, within such boundary as Congress may prescribe, shall contain a population required for a member of Congress, according to the then federal ratio of representation, it shall, if its form of government be republican, be admitted as a State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, with or without involuntary servitude or labor, as the Constitution of such State may provide."

It is contended that this provision is vague and uncertain in several particulars. While it excludes the Cherokee grant, nearly a degree of which lies north of the line, from the operation of its provisions, it is silent as to this grant south of the line, although it covers an immense extent of the finest territory in the southwest. Should the Indian title to this territory be extinguished by the United States, what would be its status?

It falls under the operation of this provision.

The general interpretation is that it would not, but that the whole territorial difficulty would be again revived. But should the Cherokee Indians desire to be admitted as a State into the Union, which is more likely to be the case, would the State be admitted "with or without involuntary servitude," as she might desire, according to the provisions of this report? Many say not. It might be a doubtful question, and the Virginia Commissioners have endeavored to have these doubts removed by clear and explicit language.

Again the articles provide that "the rights arising out of said relations (slavery) shall be protected by the Federal courts according to the common law."

Query—What protection does the common law give to slavery?

One distinguished English jurist says it affords no protection. Another, equally eminent, says it does. Mr. Benjamin gave it as his opinion in the Senate that the common law protected slave property in the Territories. Senator Fessenden and Collamer, both able lawyers, say it does not.—*Balt. Aves.*

Military Matters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—It appears from the investigation of the House Military Committee, that ex-Secretary of War A. R. Belknap's bid for one hundred thousand muskets, but Secretary Holt has refused to recognize the contract. Mr. Belknap says they were intended for the Sardinian Government.

It is further shown that Mr. Floyd distributed, without any order, through the Engineer Department, sixty-five thousand percussion muskets, forty thousand altered muskets, and ten thousand rifles, among the arsenals at Charleston, Augusta, Mount Vernon, Baton Rouge and North Carolina. With the exception of those for the last named State, the arms all fell into the possession of South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and Georgia by their secession movements.

The Committee gives as their reason for rejecting the bill authorizing the President to accept the services of volunteers, that it is certain that the regular military force is wholly inadequate to protect the forts, arsenals and dock-yard and other property of the United States in the present disturbed condition of the country, the larger portion of the army being necessary for the defence of the frontiers.

Naval Court of Inquiry.

The Court of Inquiry regarding the surrender of the Pensacola Navy Yard, by Capt. Armstrong, is still progressing, but will probably conclude their examination by another week. Capt. A. will not be condemned for the surrender of the Yard, but will be censured for not having transferred all the men at his command to Fort Pickens.

Mr. Lincoln's Speeches.

AT PITTSBURG.—We have already given the telegraphic report of what Mr. Lincoln said at Pittsburg. In relation to the Tariff, he said:—

"The tariff bill now before Congress may or may not pass at the present session. I confess I do not understand the precise provisions of this bill. I do not know whether it can be passed by the present Congress or not. It may or may not become the law of the land; but if it does pass, that will be an end of the matter until a modification can be effected, should that be deemed necessary. If it does not pass, and the latest advice I have are to the effect that it is still pending, the next Congress will have to give it the earliest attention. According to my political education, I am inclined to believe that the people in the various sections of the country should have their own views carried out through their representatives in Congress. If the consideration of the tariff bill should be postponed until the next session of the national Legislature, no subject should engage your representatives more closely than that of the tariff. If I have any recommendation to make it will be that every man who is called upon to serve the people in a representative capacity should study the whole subject thoroughly, as I intend to do myself, looking to all the varied interests of the common country, so that when the time for action arrives, to advocate that protection may be extended to the coal and iron of Pennsylvania, the corn of Illinois, and the reapers of Chicago. Permit me to express the hope that this important subject may receive such consideration at the hands of your representatives, that the interests of no part of the country may be overlooked, but that all sections may share in the common benefits of a just and equitable tariff."

[Applause.] But I am trespassing upon your patience, [cries of "no, no, go on"] and must bring my remarks to a close. Thanking you most cordially for the kind reception you have extended to me, I bid you all adieu. [Enthusiastic applause.]

AT CLEVELAND.—You have assembled to testify your respect to the Union, the constitution and the laws. And here let me say that it is with you, the people, to advance the great cause of the Union and the constitution, and not with any one man. It rests with you alone.

This fact is strongly impressed on my mind at present. In a community like this, whose appearance testifies to their intelligence, I am convinced that the cause of liberty and the Union can never be in danger. Frequent allusion is made to the excitement at present existing in national politics. It is as well that I should allude to it. I think there is no occasion for any excitement. The crisis, as it is called, is altogether an artificial crisis. In all parts of the nation there are differences of opinion on politics. There are differences of opinion even here. You did not all vote for the person who now addresses you. And how is it with those who are not here? Have they not all their rights, as they ever have had? Do they not have their fugitive slaves returned now as ever? Have they not the same constitution that they have lived under for the last seventy-odd years? Have they not a position as citizens of this common country, and have we any power to change that position? [Cries of "No." "What, then, is the matter?"] What is the matter? This question? Why all these complaints? As I said before, this crisis is all artificial. I have no foundation in fact. It was "argued up," as the saying is, and cannot be argued down. Let it alone, and it will go down of itself. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lincoln said they must be content with but few words from him. He was very much fatigued, and had spoken so frequently that he was already hoarse. He thanked them for the cordial, the enthusiastic reception they had given him, and not less did he thank them for the votes they had given him last fall, and quite as much he thanked them for the efficient and they had given the cause which he represented—a cause which he would say was a good one. He had one more word to say. He was given to understand that this reception was tendered, not only by his own party supporters, but by men of all parties. This is as it should be.

If Judge Douglas had been elected and had been here on his way to Washington, as I am tonight, the republicans would have joined in welcoming him just as his friends have joined with me tonight. If all do not now join to save the good old ship of the Union this voyage, nobody will have a chance to pilot her on another cruise. He concluded by thanking all present for the devotion they had shown for the cause of the Union.

AT BUTTUM.—Your worthy Mayor has thought fit to express the hope that I may be able to relieve the country from the present, or I should say the threatened difficulties.—I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. [Tremendous applause.] For the ability to perform it I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance, I shall surely fail; with it I cannot fail. When we speak of threatened difficulties to the country, it is natural that it should be asked what something should be said by myself with regard to particular measures. Upon more mature reflection, however—and others will agree with me—that when it is considered that these difficulties are without precedent, and never have been noted upon by any individual situated as I am, it is most proper I should wait and see the developments, and get all the light possible, so that when I do speak authoritatively I may be as near right as possible. [Cheers.] When I shall speak authoritatively, I hope to say nothing inconsistent with the Constitution, the Union, the rights of all the States, of each State and of each section of the country, and not to disappoint the reasonable expectations of those who have confided to me their votes. In this connection allow me to say that you, as a portion of the great American people, need only to maintain your composure, stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the Constitution, and act in accordance with those sober convictions, and the clouds which now rise in the horizon will be dispelled, and we shall have a bright and glorious future, and when this generation has passed away tens of thousands will inhabit this country where only thousands inhabit it now.

AT ALBANY.—I am notified by your Governor that this reception is given without distinction of party. [Lancet is more gladly because it is so.] Almost all are in this country, and in any country where freedom of thought is tolerated, attach themselves to political parties, and it is but ordinary charity to attribute this to the fact that in so attaching himself to a party which his judgment prefers, the citizen believes he thereby promotes the best interests of the whole country. And when an election is passed, it is altogether befitting a free people, that until the next election, they should be as one people.

The reception you give me this day is not given me personally. It should not be so, but as the representative for the time being of a majority of the country, if the election is held, it is in the choice of either of the other candidates the same cordiality should have been extended him as is extended to me this day, in testimony of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, to the whole Union, and of their desire for the perpetuation of our institutions, and to hand them down in their perfection to succeeding generations.

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK.—You have invited and received me without distinction of party, and I cannot for a moment suppose that this has been done in any considerable degree with reference to my personal services, but it is done, in so far as I am regarded, at this time as the representative of a majority of this great nation.

I doubt not that this is the truth and the whole truth of the case, and this is as it should be. It is much more gratifying to me that this reception has been given to me as the representative of a free people, than it could possibly be if tendered to me as an evidence of devotion to me or any one man personally.

And now, I think it were more fitting that I should close these hasty remarks. It is true, whilst I held myself without much modesty as the humblest of all individuals that have ever been elevated to the Presidency, that I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of my predecessors.

I did not propose to enter into explanation of any particular line of policy as to our present difficulties, to be adopted by the incoming Administration. I mean it. I mean to say every thing—that I should hear every thing—that I should have every light that can be brought within my reach, that in order when I do speak, I shall have enjoyed every opportunity to take a correct and true ground.

For this reason, I do not propose at this time to speak of the policy of the Government, but when the time comes I shall speak and decide, as well as I am able, for the good of the present and the future of this country—for the good of the one and the other, and of all sections—for the good both of the North and the South. [Rounds of applause.]

You have generously tendered me the support—the united support of the great Empire State in behalf of the nation; in behalf of the present and future nation; in behalf of civil and religious liberty for all time to come. Most heartily do I thank you.

In the meantime, if we have patience—if we restrain ourselves—if we allow ourselves not to run off in a passion, I still have confidence that the Almighty maker of the universe will, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this, as he has through all other difficulties of our country, and relying on this, I again thank you for this generous reception. [Applause.]

VIRGINIA NEWS.

B. F. Michie, esp. son of Thos. J. Michie, esp. died suddenly in Harrisonburg on Friday week, when he was but thirty-four years, practicing law. His remains were brought to Staunton on Saturday, and followed to the Cemetery by a large concourse.

Mr. Michie was about in his 26th year, a young man of fine intellectual culture, a generous and high-toned spirit, possessed of those genial and manly qualities of nature which made him beloved and esteemed wherever known.

A number of the citizens of Hampton have published a reply to a letter of J. S. Sagar, esp., concerning Fort Monroe. In their answer, these gentlemen say that many of them visited "Fort Monroe," and are prepared to state, that while there are but "three pieces of ordnance pointed inland," there are thirteen mounted upon the land side, which command Hampton as we advance, and the matter can be directed at the "bosom of Virginia" at a moment's notice. These guns are thirty-two pounders, and are exclusive of the "flank" pieces.

Mr. John Armstrong, late from Old Point, lost his life in a singular manner on Wednesday morning, in Richmond. He met a friend while midway of Mayo's bridge, and the two commenced a conversation. During the progress thereof he seated himself on the railing of the bridge, and while gazing in the waters beneath, became dizzy and fell over, being crushed by contact with the rocks and his body swept away by the water.

The statue of old Revolutionary hero and patriot, Gov. Thomas Nelson, ordered by the Legislature of Virginia, to be placed with his compatriots on the Washington Monument, may be expected in Richmond in a few months. It will cost about \$4,500.

Mr. Rogers, who has the contract for finishing the remaining figures, is now at Rome, busily engaged in the performance of that undertaking.

A difficulty having occurred last Monday evening, near the Virginia Hotel, Staunton, between Michael Donaho and John Butterly, the latter was struck by a brick thrown by the former, across the forehead and face, so violently as to cause apprehensions for his recovery. At last accounts he was suffering greatly. Donaho was arrested, and afterwards discharged, it being considered a case of self-defence.

Rev. A. M. Poindester, of Richmond, Va., preached an eloquent sermon in the Baptist Church at Louisa Courthouse, Sunday night, and made an effort to raise funds with which to send out Rev. J. W. Jones and lady, who reside at Louisa Courthouse, to China, and a few individuals subscribed \$250.

On Saturday a large lying load at Black water, Sullivan county, Va., sprang askew and sank very suddenly, the captain having barely time to escape. She had in 2,500 bushels of corn for Mr. Wood, and 500 for Mr. Geo. A. Wilson, of Norfolk county.—The loss is probably not less than \$1,000.

N. C. Claiborne, well known in the political circles of Virginia, is now of the Missouri Legislature. He was a delegate to the last National Convention, when Mr. Yancey, in one of his powerful speeches in Baltimore, alluded to him as the "beautiful declaimer from Missouri."

Hon. Wm. B. Preston sold, on Monday last, to Mr. Bell, of Pulaski, for the Richmond market, eleven head of fat cattle, averaging in gross weight, 2,015 pounds. On the same day, Mr. A. J. Lucas sold twenty-two, averaging 1,122 pounds. Montgomery is famous for its fine cattle.

We published several weeks ago a paragraph, to the effect that Rev. J. W. Baker, of Staunton, had received and accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church in Wheeling. This was a mistake. His brother is the minister who has been called to Wheeling.

Mr. H. Flanagan sold, a few days ago, 208 acres of land, lying along New River, in Montgomery county, to Mrs. Peter Reister, at \$100 per acre. Mr. Flanagan bought land about six months ago at \$16 per acre.

Thos. B. Peyton, esp., of Albemarle, brother of W. H. Peyton, esp., has purchased the interest of Mr. Jordan in the Virginia Hotel, at Staunton.

The amount of taxes paid yearly in Virginia, East of the Blue Ridge, is \$2,104,356 84; West of the Blue Ridge, \$1,216,909 57. Difference \$887,456 27.

IMPRISONMENT FOR VIOLATION OF INJUNCTIONS IN SELLING SEWING MACHINES.—Mr. Joseph Thoren has been arrested by the United States Marshal, and lodged in Eldridge street jail, for violating an injunction by selling sewing machines. On motion of George Gilford, Esq., an attachment was granted by Judge Smally, in the United States Court, against the defendant, for selling sewing machines, in violation of the injunction issued against him on the patents owned by the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, and the Grover & Baker Sewing Machine Company, and known as the sewing machine feed patents. Violating the orders of Court is rather a serious matter, as it renders the offender liable to punishment by fine and imprisonment.—*New York Times.*

OUR RICHMOND LETTER.